

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

This is the last Current FACts for 2013. The newsletter will resume Jan. 9, 2014.

## Dept. of Revenue First Filer Using New Electronic System

The Kentucky Dept. of Revenue partnered with the Administrative Office of the Courts to test AOC's new eCourt system in the Franklin County Circuit Court on Monday, Dec. 16. This system allows lawsuits to be filed electronically and will rollout statewide over the next five years.

"The Department of Revenue files many actions in Franklin County Circuit Court," said Frank Dempsey, an attorney with the Div. of Collections. "When the Administrative Offices of the Court (AOC) asked that we test the new system, we immediately welcomed the opportunity."

According to AOC eCourt program manager, Robert Putt, this is the first significant milestone in the five-year eCourt capital program that will transform Kentucky courts from a paper-centric to electronic court record. AOC recognized that Revenue's legal staff testing the system certainly helped the AOC project team and made the first filing a true accomplishment in implementing this new technology.

"We recognize the importance of filing lawsuits electronically at the state level," said Dept. of Revenue Commissioner Tom Miller. "This will benefit the department and we should be able to realize savings in both time and money, while enhancing our capabilities."

## KHEAA Offers Student Loan Assistance

If you have family members who are public prosecutors or public defenders in Kentucky, they may qualify for student loan forgiveness through the John R. Justice Grant program, administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

Eligible attorneys include prosecutors and public defenders who are full-time employees of the Commonwealth or a local government. Attorneys who supervise, educate or train prosecutors and defenders are also eligible.

Funding is available for loan forgiveness for 48 attorneys for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. They will be chosen from each of the seven state Supreme Court districts.

Three prosecutors and three public defenders with statewide responsibilities also will be chosen. Recipients are chosen based on their loan-to-income ratio and total student loan debt.

Funds for this loan forgiveness program are provided by the U.S. Department of Justice. KHEAA has received a grant for this fiscal year. The maximum award is \$1,120. Each award is paid directly to the lender. Applicants must sign three-year service agreements and have annual salaries of less than \$55,000. Applications must be postmarked or received by Feb. 7.

For complete information or to apply, visit [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com) and click on the John R. Justice Loan Repayment link in the left column.

## New Surplus Properties Director Named

Ronald L. Claxton, has been named division director for the Division of Surplus Properties, Department for Facilities and Support Services. His first day is Jan. 16, 2014.

Claxton was a regional director with KCTCS for nearly 12 years. He primarily worked with three correctional facilities in the western Kentucky area in designing and implementing educational programs for inmates. He also worked for the Dept. of Technical Education where he provided technical and academic counseling to incarcerated students.

Claxton has a bachelor and master degree, both from Murray State University.

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### Grammar Tip: *Idea* vs. *Ideal*

These two words are often misused.

An **idea** is a thought.

"I had a good idea," or "That's the best idea I've heard all day."

**Ideal** means that something is exceptionally good, even perfect.

"Writing is my ideal job." It can also mean that someone or something stands as an example of perfection. "He is an ideal father."

Taken from [cornerscribe.com](http://cornerscribe.com)



### REMINDER: Flex Spending Accounts — Use It or Lose It

For those of you with Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA), you'll want to make sure that you have purchased items or health services that total the

amount you set aside in your 2013 FSA. As long as you have documentation showing purchases were made between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2013, you have until March 31, 2014 to submit claims for 2013 reimbursements.

## HR News HR News

### Last Paycheck for 2013 to be Issued Dec. 23

In keeping with the tradition of early distribution of pay prior to the Christmas holidays, final pay for December will be issued on Monday, Dec. 23, 2013.



Please note that pay will not be issued again until Jan. 15, 2014.

Timesheets for the period Dec. 16-31, 2013 must be submitted by noon on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2014.

Please contact the Division of Human Resources at 564-7233 with questions.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

### Senate Bill 2 Changes Affecting Retirement

If you are a current employee with prior state service AND a break in service during which you requested a refund of retirement contributions, please be reminded that if you plan to purchase that time, it must be purchased by close of business on Dec. 31, 2013. Otherwise that time will not be creditable toward your date of participation, which determines benefits eligibility.

Other notable changes in SB 2 include:

- Implementing a hybrid cash balance pension plan for new hires beginning Jan. 1, 2014.
- Changes impacting retirees related to cost of living adjustments.
- Introduction of a new beneficiary plan option.

For more information, contact the Div. of Human Resources at 564-7233 or Kentucky Retirement Systems at 564-4646 or visit the KERS website at <https://kyret.ky.gov/>.